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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 161482

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, ICRC

SUBJECT: ICRC WEAPONS CONFERENCE

REF: SAIGON 9699 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: WE HAVE REVIEWED GVN REQUEST FOR MAXIMUM EFFORT TO ELICIT NEGATIVE REPLIES ON PRG PARTICIPATION FROM BAHAMAS, JORDAN, LIBERIA, LIECHTENSTEIN, NORWAY, PAKISTAN, RWANDA, TUNISIA, UPPER VOLTA, TURKEY AND SAN MARINO. POSTS IN ALL THESE COUNTRIES COVERED BY STATE 119953 AND STATE 145886. LIBERIA AND SAN MARINO ALSO COVERED BY STATE 151302. ON BASIS OF RESPONSES TO DEMARCHES, WE BELIEVE FURTHER EFFORTS AT PRESENT TIME WITH THESE COUNTRIES WOULD NOT BE PRODUCTIVE. SPECIFICS FOLLOW. YOU SHOULD NEVERTHELESS ASSURE GVN THAT VIGOROUS WORLD-WIDE DIPLOMATIC EFFORT CONTINUES TO BE CARRIED ON BY DEPT. AND THAT WE ARE KEEPING SITUATION UNDER CLOSE REVIEW

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TO ENSURE THAT ALL POSSIBILITIES ARE FOLLOWED UP. YOU MAY

ALSO DISCUSS WITH GVN OUR CURRENT TENTATIVE OVERALL
VOTE ESTIMATE, WHICH IS INCLUDED BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. WITH REGARD TO SPECIFIC COUNTRIES MENTIONED REFTEL:

(A) BAHAMAS--NASSAU 1224 INDICATED THAT BAHAMAS
NEITHER LIKELY TO ATTEND CONFERENCE NOR TO RESPOND TO ICRC
NOTE. WE DO NOT CONSIDER FURTHER PRESSURE WORTHWHILE.

(B) JORDAN--AMMAN 717 AND AMMAN 4029 GIVE US SOME
HOPE THAT JORDAN MIGHT OPPOSE PRG PARTICIPATION, BUT,
JUST AS AT DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE, WE ARE NOT SANGUINE
THAT THEY WILL DELIVER AND WE ARE THUS ESTIMATING THEM
TO BE A PROBABLE ABSTAIN.

(C) LIBERIA--USG DEMARCHES ARE REPORTED IN
MONROVIA 3353, 3996 AND 4092. GENEVA 4678 SAYS THAT
LIBERIA HAS REPLIED TO ICRC NOTE, BUT WE HAVE NOT YET
BEEN INFORMED OF SUBSTANCE OF REPLY.

(D) LIECHTENSTEIN--DEAMRCHE REPORTED IN ZURICH 376.
GENEVA 4680 INFORMED US THAT LIECHTENSTEIN ABSTAINED.

(E) NORWAY -- ON BASI OF NORWAY'S PAST PERFOR-
MANCE AND IN VIEW OF OSLO 3263, WE CONSIDER IT CERTAIN
THAT NORWAY WILL ABSTAIN.

(F) PAKISTAN--ISLAMABAD 6485 MADE CLEAR THERE
NO CHANCE OF MOVING THEM FROM ABSTAIN POSITION.

(G) RWANDA--WAS NOT AT DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE AND
KIGALI 378 LEADS US TO BELIEVE NO REPLY SHOULD BE
EXPECTED.

(H) TUNISIA--TUNIS 3802 MAKES CLEAR TUNISIA WILL
ABSTAIN.

(I) UPPER VOLTA--OUAGADOUGOU 1155 INDICATES THAT
NO REPLY IS PROBABLE.

(J) TURKEY--ANKARA 5545 MAKES CLEAR TURKEY WILL
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ABSTAIN.

(K) SAN MARINO--IN VIEW OF INTERNAL PROBLEMS
CREATED BY NO VOTE AT DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE, DISCUSSED
FLORENCE 226, WE DO NOT WISH TO MAKE NEW DEMARCHE UNTIL
WE KNOW FOR SURE THAT ITALY HAS RESPONDED
NEGATIVELY.

3. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND FOR POSSIBLE DISCUSSION WITH GVN, WE HAVE DEVELOPED TENTATIVE VOTE ESTIMATE BASED ON REPLIES TO OUR DEMARCHES AND, WHERE THESE LACKING, ON COUNTRY'S VOTE OR POSITION AT DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON LAW OF WAR OR ON PAST VOTING BEHAVIOR OF COUNTRY ON SIMILAR QUESTIONS. THIS ESTIMATE FOLLOWS:

A. FAVOR PRG PARTICIPATION: 43.

1. REPLIED FAVORING PRG PARTICIPATION: ALGERIA, CHINA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, MAURITANIA, NORTH VIETNAM, PERU, SENEGAL, TANZANIA (8).

2. IF REPLY, WILL FAVOR PRG: ALBANIA, BANGLADESH, BULGARIA, BURUNDI, BYELORUSSIA, CAMEROON, CONGO, CUBA, DEMOCRATIC YEMEN, EGYPT, GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, GUINEA-BISSAU, HUNGARY, INDIA, IRAQ, LIBYA, MADAGASCAR, MALI, MONGOLIA, NORTH KOREA, POLAND, ROMANIA, SRI LANKA, SYRIA, UGANDA, UKRAINE, USSR, YUGOSLAVIA (28).

3. NOT AT LOW CONF, NO EXPRESSED INTENTION TO REPLY BUT WOULD FAVOR PRG: AFGHANISTAN, DAHOMEY, GABON, GUINEA, MAURITIUS, SOMALIA, ZAMBIA (7).

B. OPPOSE PRG PARTICIPATION: 44.

1. REPLIED OPPOSING PRG: BELGIUM, CANADA, CYPRUS, GAMBIA, GUATEMALA, ISRAEL, JAPAN, KHMER REPUBLIC, NICARAGUA, PARAGUAY, SOUTH AFRICA, SOUTH VIETNAM, UK, US, URUGUAY (15).

2. IF REPLY, WILL OPPOSE PRG: AUSTRALIA, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, CAR, CHILE, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, CONFIDENTIAL

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ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR, FRG, GREECE, HAITI, HONDURAS, ITALY, IVORY COAST, LEBANON, MALAYSIA, MEXICO, NEW ZEALAND, PHILIPPINES, SAN MARINO, SOUTH KOREA, SPAIN, THAILAND, VENEZUELA (26).

3. NOT AT LOW CONF OR NO EXPRESSED INTENTION TO REPLY BUT WOULD OPPOSE PRG: FIJI, PORTUGAL, SINGAPORE (3).

C. NO OPINION ON PRG PARTICIPATION: 58.

1. REPLIED GIVING NO OPINION: BURMA, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, FRANCE, HOLY SEE, ICELAND, LESOTHO, LIECHTENSTEIN, LUXEMBOURG, MALAWI, MALTA, MONACO, OMAN, SIERRA LEONE, SUDAN (14).

2. IF REPLY, WILL ABSTAIN OR EXPRESS NO OPINION:

ARGENTINA, AUSTRIA, BAHAMAS, CHAD, DENMARK, ETHIOPIA,
FINLAND, GHANA, INDONESIA, IRAN, IRELAND, JORDAN, KENYA,
KUWAIT, LIBERIA, NETHERLANDS, NIGERIA, NORWAY, PAKISTAN,
PANAMA, SAUDI ARABIA, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, TOGO,
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TURKEY, ZAIRE (27).

3. NOT AT LOW CONF, NO EXPRESSED INTENTION TO REPLY BUT
WOULD ABSTAIN OR EXPRESS NO OPINION: BAHRAIN, BARBADOS,
BHUTAN, BOTSWANA, GUYANA, JAMAICA, LAOS, MOROCCO,
NEPAL, NIGER, QATAR, RWANDA, SWAZILAND, TUNISIA, UAE,
UPPER VOLTA, YAR (17).

D. COMMENT: PROJECTED VOTE-COUNT ASSUMING REPLY BY ALL
STATES IS THEREFORE 43-44(US) WITH 58 ABSTENTIONS. VOTE
COUNT ASSUMING REPLY BY STATES AT LOW CONFERENCE IS MORE
FAVORABLE, I.E. 36-41(US) WITH 41 ABSTENTIONS. IT IS
POSSIBLE THAT WE MAY PICK UP NO VOTES FROM LIBERIA,
PANAMA AND SAUDI ARABIA AND MAY TURN AROUND REPLY FROM
LUXEMBOURG. ON OTHER HAND, LEBANON AND MEXICO MAY
POSSIBLY ABSTAIN. KISSINGER

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